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vered and parental voice. I would not allow the life of this man, the prolongation of a single hour, if I judged the present hour the most proper to take it away. If the prime and and master spirits of the age they lived in, not only were not disgraced, but were glorified by the sacrifice of Saturninus, of Flaccus, and of the Gracchi, much less ought I to suspend the sword over this paricide, and though I might happen to encounter public odium, I am the man who knows it is sometimes the truest glory to have inherited it.

I know full well that some there are, even in this assembly, who either do not or will not see the impending danger, who are of such mild and milky natures as to nurse the hopes of Cataline; and under the sanction of such unsuspecting tempers, the wicked and the weak among us will exclaim, that immediate judgment upon him would not be merely cruel, but the act of a royal despot. Now, I am convinced, that, if this man proceeds, as he intends, to the camp of Manlius, there will not be one so very stupid, as not to see a conspiracy framed against the state, nor one so very wicked, as not to wish it repressed. I am also convinced, that were this man cut off, on the instant, the hydia of public calamity would lose only one head, while others would spring up, and pullulate in its place; but if he should not only himself evacuate the city, but collect into one place all of depraved character, and desperate fortune, then would the evil be completely eradicated, and the seed-plot of sedition be blasted and destroyed.

I know not how it happens, conscript fathers, but every stratagem of sedition, every malignant conspiracy, that has fostered in the body politic, for a length of time, seems to have ripened, and fully matured, during the period of my consulship. I know well, that by giving free exit to this boil, the suffering state might be lightened and refreshed for a season; but here is a malady that has infected the very vitals, and taints the whole with such venom, that the excision even of this man, would be only a poor palliative, that might exasperate, but never would completely annihilate the disorder.

On this account, and this only, let the wicked depart. Let them be compressed into one body, and held in one place. Let the city walls, as I have said, keep us and them asunder. No longer let them lie in wait for the consul at his very door; no longer beset the praetor in his seat of justice; no longer let our citizens stand as if on the point of these men's daggers; no longer let combustibles be prepared, and faggots laid out for setting our streets in a blaze. In short, let us, in times as these, read the principles of every citizen engraved upon his forehead, and then, behold in me, an auspicious augur, that such must be the consequence, of consular vigilance, senatorial authority, and equestrian valour, every thing will become clear and manifest, the machinations of evil men will be blasted, and the honour of Rome avenged.

Lucius Cataline begin, as soon as you are able, this damnable, and unnatural war. Begin it, on your part, under the shade of every dreadful omen: on mine, with the sure and certain hope of safety to my country and glory to myself, and when this you have done, then, do *THOU*, whose altar was first founded by the founder of our state—*Thou*, the stabiliser of this city, pour out thy vengeance upon this man and all his adherents. Save us from his fury, our public altars, our sacred temples, our houses, and household gods, our liberties, our lives. Pursue, tutelary god, pursue them, these foes to the gods, and goodness, these plunderers of Italy, these assassins of Rome. Erase them out of this life, and in the next, let thy vengeance pursue them, insatiable, unplaceable, immortal!

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*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

EIGHTH REPORT FROM THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, IN IRELAND.

To his Grace Charles Duke of Richmond and Lenox, &c. Lord Lieutenant general, and general governor of Ireland.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE,  
WE the undersigned commission-  
ers, appointed for inquiring into the several funds and revenues granted by public or private donations for the purposes of education

and into the state and condition of all schools on public or charitable foundations, in Ireland, beg leave to lay before your grace our report upon the foundling hospital, in the city of Dublin.

The institution which is the subject of this report, was considered by the former commissioners for inquiring into the state of schools, as not properly falling within the scope of their inquiry, its original object and destination, as implied in its titles, not appearing to include education in the proper sense of the word, and its actual conduct and management from its first establishment until that time, and for some years after, not being directed to that object in any sense of it. In its present state, however, it appears to form a proper and most important branch of the great object of our inquiry, and to demand a very full and particular report, which we trust will apologise to your grace for our going at some length into a detail as well of its progress to that highly improved state in which we now find it, as of the particulars in which that improvement consists.

The foundling hospital, which stands in an airy, elevated, and healthful situation on an area of about fourteen acres (including garden) at the west end of James's street, was erected in the year 1704, during the administration of James Duke of Ormond. It was originally designed not only for the reception of deserted and vagrant children, but for the maintenance of adults, who were disabled by age and infirmities from earning subsistence by labour, and also for the confinement and correction of vagrants. The constitution and objects of the establishment have undergone a variety of alterations by sundry acts of parliament; but under the 15th and 16th George III. chap. 25 (Irish statute) which recites, "That whereas the number of children of the age of six years and under (who were admissible as the law then stood) have of late years increased so far beyond the expectation of the said governors, that the expense of maintaining them has exceeded every provision that could be made (exclusive of grants

of parliament) and enacts, "That from and after the 24th of June, 1776, there shall not be received into said hospital, or sent to nurse therefrom, any child who shall appear to be above the age of one year old," it seems to have finally assumed the character of a foundling hospital.

The funds consist of a tax on houses in the city of Dublin, an annual grant from parliament, and the income of a small estate in the neighbourhood of the hospital, for the particulars and amount of which we refer to the appendix, No. 1.

We deem it unnecessary minutely to state the history of this establishment through the successive variations it has from time to time undergone; it will be sufficient to state that the vices in the constitution, and the abuses in the management of it, attracted the notice of the Irish parliament in the year 1797, and by an act passed in the 38th George III. chap. 35, and founded on the inquiry and report of a committee of the house of commons, the former corporation of governors, which consisted of nearly two hundred persons, was dissolved, and the whole conduct of the institution was vested in *nine persons*, named in the said act, and their successors to be elected in the manner therein appointed.

This act, which was temporary, was continued in the following session, and by the 40th George III. chap. 33, was amended and further continued to the 24th of June 1810, and to the end of the then next session of parliament. By the second section of this last-mentioned act the chancellor of the exchequer of Ireland for the time being was added to, and associated with, the nine governors named in the 38th George III.

By the 41st George III. chap. 50, the governors or any five or more of them are authorized to elect three other fit and proper persons to be governors of said hospital (sect 2) who must be approved of by the lord lieutenant for the time being (sect 3).

Under the 40th George III. chap. 33, as amended by the said last mentioned act, the institution has ever

since been conducted. This act (on which it is to be observed the institution rests) will expire at the end of the session of parliament, that follows the 24th of June next, unless it shall be in the mean time continued by a new law.

Experience has proved in this, as well as in many other instances, that a numerous corporation is by no means calculated to conduct any charitable institution with advantage. Responsibility so divided is felt by none, and we are informed, that (except when offices of emolument were to be disposed of) it was difficult out of a board consisting of nearly two hundred governors to procure the attendance of *five* once in a quarter, to transact the ordinary business of the establishment.

The objects of such an institution being two-fold, first, to save the lives of deserted and exposed children; secondly, to educate them in such a manner as to render them useful members of society, it appears that neither the one nor the other were effectually attained under the former corporation.

But the reform of this institution in all its departments was undertaken with zeal, and pursued with assiduity. Several ladies of distinction devoted their time and attention to the reform of the abuses that had prevailed in the infant department, and to the regulation of the female schools; and since the enactment of the 38th George III. there has been, with very few exceptions, a regular attendance of governors once in every week at the hospital.

In the management of the infant department glaring abuses prevailed. It was these which principally attracted the notice of parliament, excited a considerable degree of public indignation at the time, and called into action the zeal and exertions which have so happily accomplished their reform. These evils being now completely done away, it is no longer necessary to dwell upon them with minuteness; but it is indispensably necessary to bring them forward in a concise and general way, in order to convey a just notion of the difficulties under which the institution

now labours, from the great and growing increase of numbers occasioned by the adoption of those measures of reform.

First. No sufficient care was taken to regulate the conveyance of infants from distant parts to the capital, the grossest negligence and inhumanity were found to prevail in the conduct of the women employed for this purpose; hence several of the children sent up from remote parts, died on the road, others almost immediately after their being delivered at the hospital. The attention of the governors and the surgeon was immediately directed to the correction of these abuses; several regulations were adopted with a view to this object, the effect of which in the course of the first year was such, that (to adopt the expression of one of the early publications of the governors) "after the closest inspection little difference could on admission be perceived between the infants who had been carried upwards of fifty miles, and those born in the county and county of the city of Dublin."

Secondly. A most erroneous and vicious management prevailed in the whole conduct of the infant department; a majority of the infants received were abandoned as hopelessly afflicted with the venereal disease; whereas a more accurate investigation of the symptoms on which this conclusion was founded, established beyond controversy in the course of the first six months the following fact, "That not more than one in eleven were contaminated with this disease;" and a continuance of the same accurate observation reduced the proportion still further, inasmuch, that at the end of the third half year from the commencement of the new regulations (and which ended the 8th of January 1799) it was clearly established that but one in twenty nine of those admitted were so infected; and subsequent observation reduced the proportion of venereals still further. The effect of this reform in reducing the mortality among the infants will appear from a comparison of the following tables printed in the pamphlet already referred to.

*Table showing the Number of Children admitted in the Foundling Hospital from 8th July 1797, to 8th July 1798, the Number of Deaths in said Period, and how the survivors were disposed of.*

Table of Admissions		Table of Deaths.		Period of Deaths.		Living children		Infants given to country Wet Nurses.		Dry children given to Country Dry Nurses	
802	Total Admissions.										
698	Infants.										
104	Dry Children.										
401	Infants.										
17	Dry Children.										
418	Total.										
10	Within 48 hours after admission										
135	From the 3d to the 7th day inclusive										
157	In the second week.										
50	In the third week.										
17	In the fourth week.										
49	Subsequent to the fourth week.										
384	Living children to be accounted for.										
19	Within one day after admission										
21	Within two days after admission.										
19	Within three days after admission.										
16	Within four days after admission										
17	Within five days after admission										
12	Within six days after admission.										
23	In the second week.										
52	In the third week										
23	In the fourth week.										
52	Subsequent to the fourth week.										
231	Total										
13	Three months old.										
21	Six months old.										
9	Nine months old										
13	Twelve months old										
104	Total.										
20	Returned to Parents										
29	Living in the House.										

N.B. The first of the two tables on the next page is to be read before this, as appears from the dates.

*Table of Admissions of Children into the Foundling Hospital from 1785 to 1797, inclusive, stating the Deaths which took place in each year in the Infant Nursery, and Infant Infirmary:*

YEARS.	Total admitted in each Year.	Deaths in the Infant Nursery, not Venereal	Deaths in the Infant Infirmary, supposed to be Venereal	Total of the Deaths in the Nursery and Infirmary
1785	1,900	59	300	359
1786	2,150	48	493	541
1787	2,051	65	344	409
1788	2,144	112	565	677
1789	2,134	273	652	925
1790	2,187	396	549	945
1791	2,192	426	779	1,205
1792	1,998	420	861	1,281
1793	2,205	484	803	1,287
1794	2,253	382	903	1,285
1795	2,101	411	959	1,470
1796	2,037	369	910	1,279
1797	1,922	- - - -	- - - -	1,457

From the foregoing tables it appears that the mortality among the infants in the house, had in the half year ending the 8th of July 1797 amounted to three fourths of the number admitted, the admissions within that period having amounted to 1922 and the deaths to 1459; whereas in the first half year in which the new system was adopted,

the deaths amounted to a little more than half of the whole, the admissions being within that period 802 and the deaths computing 418, and from the following table continued to the 8th of July 1808 it will appear that the mortality among the infants in the house though fluctuating has been still farther diminished.

*Amount of the Deaths of Infants which occurred at the Foundling Hospital in Dublin, from 9th July 1798 to the 8th July 1808.*

YEARS.	DEATHS.	ADMISSIONS.
1 Year ending 8th July 1799	439	1,471
2 - - - 1800	491	2,054
3 - - - 1801	520	1,840
4 - - - 1802	356	1,430
5 - - - 1803	910	2,214
6 - - - 1804	373	1,947
7 - - - 1805	368	2,017
8 - - - 1806	510	2,168
9 - - - 1807	452	2,161
10 - - - 1808	623	2,336
TOTAL . . .	5,042	19,669

Thirdly, Other salutary regulations contributed to augment the number of lives preserved, among these, one of the principal was the employment of house wet nurses instead of spoonfeeding; the wages also of the country nurses were increased on the 8th of September 1797 from two to three pounds per annum, and a bounty of two pounds was allowed to every wet nurse who

produced the child entrusted to her in good health, with every appearance of having been well attended to at the end of the year. Thus the regulations respecting carriage, reduced the mortality of infants consigned to this institution previous to admissions; the reform in the internal management, that of infants in the house and the increased pay of the country nurses, U u

with additional caution in selecting proper persons for that purpose, contributed to produce the same effect among the children sent to the country. Such as wish for more particular information upon the foregoing topics, we beg leave to refer to the publication already cited (Appendix, No. H) and to another printed by the governors in the year 1799, and presented in that year, with then petition to the Irish parliament. See Appendix No 10.

The foregoing observations present a succinct view of the improvements introduced into the infant department of the hospital, and the consequent increase of numbers resulting from that cause. But this was but the first branch of reform; the preservation of the necessarily claimed priority of attention, but it is obvious that this should not be the sole object of such an institution, and that to educate the children thus preserved, in such a manner as to render them useful members of society is still of higher importance; but this object was very imperfectly attained and in many instances altogether abandoned by the former governors. First, the children were not drafted into the hospital till the age of nine or ten years at soonest, at which period bad habits were frequently acquired, and the whole work of education was to be begun. Secondly, a great majority of the children were apprenticed at twelve years of age, and many in a few weeks after admissions into the schools they were apprenticed out on the recommendation of a single governor, without due inquiry into the character or circumstances of the person applying; there was no fixed rule as to the period of their continuance at the schools; the principal object was to apprentice a sufficient number in each year to make room for those who were to be drafted in from the country; thus as the defects in the management of the infant department prevented the accumulation of numbers on the general establishment, this summary and precipitate mode of disposing of the children received into the Schools, kept down the numbers maintained in the house. The difficulties under which the institution has laboured of late years

were unknown, and the expences of conducting it were comparatively small. But the effects of the reform in the management of the infant department soon began to be felt throughout the whole of the establishment; the increase in the number of lives saved annually augmented the sum paid to the country nurses, but the further consequences of this increase of numbers could hardly escape the most superficial observation; the period was not very distant when this accumulation of numbers was to be provided for within the establishment. The age at which children were then drafted into the house was ten years; it was much to be desired that this should be taken in at an earlier period, by allowing them to remain so long with their nurses, habits were contracted unfavourable to the progress of their education in the house, but under the actual circumstances of the hospital in point of accommodation and funds, it would have been necessary annually to postpone instead of accelerating the period of reception. The hospital was then capable of accommodating only from six hundred to six hundred and fifty children. In the course of the year 1803, on examining the tables of mortality kept since the commencement of the measures of reform in 1797, it was computed that about one in five, or thereabouts of the whole number received, at the gate would be alive (and to be drafted into the house) at the age of ten years\*; this would give an annual average of about four hundred to be drafted, the average of † admissions being about two thousand, but unless the children already

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\* The number of children who actually attain the age of ten years is greater than in this proportion; but some are returned to their parents every year, and some are withheld by their nurses, sometimes in consequence of a strong attachment to them having been formed, and sometimes in consequence of then having become useful, these two causes reduce the number to be annually drafted, so as to render the foregoing computation to be not very far from the truth, absolute precision is manifestly unattainable.

† The term "admission" is applied to the first reception of the infants at the

in the school were turned out without any or with little education, and apprenticed to such persons as might offer to take them without discrimination or selection, not more than half this number could be actually received, consequently half of the children of ten years of age must have remained with their nurses, and in the following year all the children who would then have attained that age. Thus in the course of a few years the funds, extent of accommodation, and other circumstances of the institution remaining the same, the period of *drafting* must have been so postponed as completely to have prevented the education of great numbers, and many must have become adults in the country, without having participated of any portion of instruction from the institution.

These circumstances we find were stated by memorial of the governors to his excellency Earl Hardwicke, when Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, early in 1803, and by petition to parliament in the following session 1804. In consequence of which the annual grant was augmented by an addition of five thousand pounds, which has been since continued. See said petition to parliament, Appendix No. 2.\*

This grant was calculated at the then price of provisions and other necessities of life, to enable the governors to defray the expences of the establishment; consisting of the numbers as then augmented in consequence of the regulations of 1797, and to maintain and educate in the house for four years twelve hundred children, proposed to be received from the nurses at eight and apprenticed at twelve years of age; and as the period for drafting the additional number would not arrive for two years after the grant,

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gate: the term "*drafting*" to then removal from the care of the country nurses into the house.

\* See Appendix, No. 1, and the explanatory letter of Mr Hendrick.

and the children received in 1793 subsequent to the adoption of the measures of reform would not complete their eighth year till 1806 the governors were enabled, out of the annual savings, to finish the accommodation for twelve hundred children, to enlarge the chapel then in a ruinous state and calculated for a much smaller establishment, and to commence immediately to receive children at eight instead of ten years of age.

Out of this measure, however, circumstances arose which were altogether unexpected, which could neither be foreseen nor provided against, and which necessarily led to further expenditure in order to make the establishment completely fitted to fulfil the expectations held out to parliament in the petition presented in the session of 1804. A severe malady (chiefly dysentery, but assuming different shapes, and supposed to be occasioned by the change of diet and mode of living) broke out among the younger children in the two years in which this early drafting took place, which spread among the grown children and also the adults of the establishment. The former infirmary accommodation was found utterly inadequate; several of the dormitories, designed for and ordinarily appropriated to the use of the healthy, were converted into temporary hospitals for the sick; in spite of vigilance, attention, and care, the mortality, as we are informed, was considerable and alarming in both years, and it was found impracticable to conduct the institution upon the enlarged plan without a new and much more extensive infirmary.

The number of lives preserved has also considerably exceeded the calculation; the sum paid for nurses wages in the year ending the 5th January 1803, was eight thousand one hundred and forty three pounds eleven shillings and sixpence; whereas in every succeeding year it has successively increased, as will appear from the following table.



*Amount of Wages paid for nursing Children, to the following Periods.*

		<i>£</i>	<i>s</i>	<i>d</i>
Half Year ending 24th June 1798	. . . . .	561	15	— <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub>
One Year ending 24th June 1798	. . . . .	5,400	14	11 <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub>
— . . . 25th March 1800	. . . . .	5,034	2	11
— . . . 31st December 1800	. . . . .	6,646	7	2
— . . . 5th January 1802	. . . . .	8,753	1	9
— . . . 5th do. 1803	. . . . .	8,143	11	6
— . . . 5th do. 1804	. . . . .	9,053	8	10
— . . . 5th do. 1805	. . . . .	10,511	13	6
— . . . 5th do. 1806	. . . . .	12,132	10	1
— . . . 5th do. 1807	. . . . .	12,948	4	5
— . . . 5th do. 1808	. . . . .	13,558	1	4
— . . . 5th do. 1809	. . . . .	14,553	19	11

The infirmary is roofed in, but the inside work is not completed; the expense thereby incurred, together with the increased demand for pay of the country nurses has occasioned an excess of the annual expenditure above the income for the last two years, in so much that it appears that on the 5th of January 1808 the institution was indebted to the amount of nine thousand four hundred and thirty-five pounds nineteen shillings and tenpence halfpenny, including the amount of the wages then due to the nurses in the country, but not paid until the 24th of June following; and on the 5th of January 1809 to the amount of ten thousand eight hundred and seventy-six pounds three shillings and eight pence, the amount of wages then due being also included, which debt will probably be not much reduced on the 5th of January 1810, although the governors have suspended the completion of the buildings already begun, and the drafting of children, and also reduced their expenses in every instance in which it was practicable.

Their present embarrassment seems to have been almost unavoidable, and to have arisen from three causes.

1st. The increased demand for the pay of country nurses.

2dly. The increased price of the necessaries of life and of building materials.

3dly. The adoption of a plan for enabling them fully to meet the expectations of the public and their own ideas of duty, in providing accommodations suitable to the exigencies of the augmented establishment, without having taken into their view either of the foregoing considerations.

Such is the actual state of this institution with respect to funds at present, viz—

1st. A debt contracted. 2dly. Buildings necessary for the comfortable accommodation of twelve hundred children commenced, but not yet completed. 3dly. An income quite inadequate (loaded as it now is with a heavy debt) to complete the buildings necessary for conducting the institution or even to defray the ordinary expenses of the establishment.

So far as the circumstances above stated arise from the expense incurred by building, they are of a temporary and accidental nature; so far as they are owing to the advance in the price of the necessaries of life, the cause is common to all other establishments; but the increase of expense arising from the diminution of mortality is a contingency to which this institution must always be subject, and there are other difficulties growing out of the very nature of the establishment, and requiring to be distinctly stated, which render it impracticable to form any correct estimate of the expense of maintaining it for any number of years to come, and which will require on the part of the governors the utmost vigilance and constant care and attention.

1st—The estimate on, which the governors proceeded when they presented their petition to parliament in 1803, and every estimate hitherto made of the expenses of conducting this establishment, has been founded on the supposition that the number of annual admissions would not on an average exceed two thousand. It will appear by the inspection of the

subjoined table that this supposition is supported by the experience of eight years ending 24th June 1807, as well as by the average of former years. But the same table will shew, that since that period a considerable

augmentation has taken place in the admissions, and that the number received in the year ending 31st December 1808 exceeded the average number of the preceding eight years by four hundred and fourteen.

*Children Admitted into the Foundling Hospital, distinguishing Males from Females; also distressed, exposed, and those sent in by the Father.*

	Admitted	Males.	Females.	Distressed	Exposed.	Sent in by the Father.
During the Year ending 24th June 1800	2,041	970	1,071	712	1,095	234
• • • • • 1801	1,550	862	988	578	985	287
• • • • • 1802	1,432	696	736	471	701	256
• • • • • 1803	2,178	1,003	1,175	592	1,267	319
• • • • • 1804	1,956	923	1,033	547	1,119	290
• • • • • 1805	2,020	949	1,071	614	1,178	228
• • • • • 1806	2,168	1,048	1,120	630	1,269	269
• • • • • 1807	2,164	972	1,192	661	1,301	262
Sixth Months ending 31st December 1807	996	467	529	307	574	113
Year ending 31st December • 1808	2,590	1,081	1,309	760	1,430	200
Quarter ending 31st March • 1809	569	276	293	185	336	46

(Signed) P. CRAWLEY, Porter of the Foundling Hospital.

A proportionate increase has taken place in the months which have already expired of the current year, as we are informed, but a sufficient period has not yet elapsed to justify any conclusion as to its probable permanence. If in the course of a year or two the number should return to its former average or sink below it, the general circumstances of the establishment would not be materially affected by such a temporary fluctuation; but if it should continue for a number of years together, the whole plan of education would be overthrown, or at least rendered extremely imperfect, and the difficulties which it was the object of the increased establishment to remove would return with a considerable force. To explain this it must be remembered, that but twelve hundred can be accommodated in the house, and that this number would be kept up by the annual drafting of four hundred children; that four hundred at least would be annually furnished out of an admission of two thousand, and

that the addition of four hundred more admitted would give eighty additional drafts, one in five being supposed to live to eight years. The increase would not be felt in the house for seven years, but then it would be necessary either to apprentice out children who had not been four years in the house, or to leave eighty children, who ought to be taken in, without education in the country, and this number would (on the hypothesis on which we are now proceeding); be augmented every year, if therefore the admissions should continue to increase, the difficulty could be met in two ways only.

By increasing the house accommodation, or by limiting the admissions, which are at present without any restriction.

The former method is liable to great and obvious objections; it would probably be deemed advisable to resort to the latter, and to a country circumstance as this is, where unlimited admission has prevailed for a great number of years, it will be extreme-

ly difficult to devise any mode of restraint which will not be liable to considerable objections.

2dly.—As the average number of two thousand admissions gives an annual average of at least four hundred drafts at eight years of age, it is plain, that whenever the house shall be filled up to the establishment of twelve hundred, the *drafting* cannot be carried on unless four hundred children shall be apprenticed in every year; this exposes the plan to great uncertainty. The average number hitherto apprenticed has never amounted to one hundred and thirty, as will appear by the subjoined table; there must be a great increase of demand for apprentices, in order to establish an outlet for a sufficient number; however as during a considerable portion of the period on which this observation is founded, there was not a sufficient number of children properly qualified in point of age and education on the list, and as the improved

character of the institution and the good conduct of several lately apprenticed has, as we are informed, given birth to many applications for apprentices, which under the actual circumstances of the Hospital could not be complied with, there is reason to hope that this difficulty will be surmounted.

3dly.—The present wages of the country nurses (except for the first year) is but three pounds per annum, and at this very moderate expence the children are maintained and (in some sort) clothed to the age of eight years; at present the children of the founding hospital are much sought for by the poor, but if from any change in the circumstances of the labouring classes in the province of Leinster, the maintenance of a child at three pounds should cease to be an object, the expence of the institution must necessarily be increased by augmenting the pay of the country nurses.

*The number of Males and Females apprenticed to Trades and Services from the founding Hospital for seven years, ending the 10th of October 1808.*

	1801	1802	1803	1804	1805	1806	1807	1808
Males apprenticed to Services	30	42	89	47	45	32	24	5
Females apprenticed to Services	19	58	105	111	108	94	34	12
Males apprenticed to Trades	7	23	15	23	34	14	7	17
Females apprenticed to Trades	—	1	3	8	2	—	—	4
	56	124	212	189	189	140	65	48

Number of Children supposed to be at Nurse the 10th of October 1808 5,028

Male Children in the House the 19th April 1809. . . . . 327

Female do . . do . . do. . . . . 409

Of whom there were in the Infirmary . . . . . 69

(Signed) J. A. BALLIE, Register of the Foundling Hospital  
19th April, 1809.

#### *Infant Department.*

All infants under the age of one year presented at the gate of the founding hospital are admitted, a registry is kept by the porter, in which are noted the number received (distinguishing males from females, and those that are exposed from such

as are delivered by their parents) and the places from whence they come, the surgeon (who is not a resident officer) attends daily, and examines the children received. If found to be in health they are sent to the country to be wet-nursed; if diseased, or if their situation in

point of health be doubtful, they are retained in what is termed, "the infant department of the hospital" under the care of the surgeon and a resident apothecary; a proper number of wet-nurses are always employed in the house for the management of these sickly or doubtful children, and as soon as their health is sufficiently established they are sent to the country.

Of such country nurses there is always a sufficient number attending in expectation of employment. They come from all the counties in Leinster (except the county of Kilkenny) but chiefly from the county of Dublin, and those immediately bordering on it, Wicklow, Kildare, and Meath; the stated wages of the nurses are three pounds per annum, and at this small annual expense every child is maintained till the period arrives of *drafting* them into the hospital, except during the first year; but at the end of that year, in addition to the annual wages, the wet-nurses receive a bounty of two pounds each, provided the child is produced at the hospital in good health, and with every appearance of having been well nursed, and carefully attended to; as to which circumstances, after a strict examination, report is made by the surgeon.

All persons applying to be employed in the nursing or care of children must produce certificates of good character from some respectable resident gentry or farmers in the neighbourhood from whence they come. The children generally remain with them till the period of *drafting* them into the house; in general, a strong attachment is stated to be formed between the nurse and child, that the children sometimes become adopted into the families in which they are placed, that there are frequent instances of women relinquishing their wages rather than part with the children entrusted to their care, and that the separation seldom takes place without tears on both sides, no nurse receives her wages without producing the child at the hospital, they are paid once a year, and the period fixed is the summer months of June,

July, and August, when the days are long, and the weather and roads favourable for travelling. In the appendix, No. 3, will be found a table, showing the comparative number of admissions from the several counties in Ireland for nine years and a half, ending the 31st of December 1808.

#### *Schools*

When the children are drafted into the house, they are dispersed through the several schools. There are at present twelve female and four male schools, the numbers in which are various according to the state of the house, and the number of the schools is sometimes reduced according to circumstances. Each school is under the care of a master or mistress, assisted by monitors chosen from among the children. The female schools are under the immediate superintendence of the chaplain, who is answerable for their religious instruction; the male schools are also under the care of a superintendent; the arrangement with respect to the female schools was settled by the governors, with the approbation of the governors, immediately after the hospital was placed by the legislature under the present system of government in the year 1798.

The plan on which the male schools are conducted was not adopted till the year 1802, when the reverend Henry Murray was appointed superintendent, an office then first instituted by the governors from experience of the necessity of it, and from which it appears the most beneficial consequences have resulted; of this gentleman we feel ourselves bound to say, that this plan of instruction and the success which has attended it give him the strongest claim to public notice and patronage; by his single efforts, and without being indebted either to Doctor Bell, or Mr. Lancaster, he has introduced much that is truly valuable in their systems into the schools of the hospital, we had an opportunity of witnessing the progress of the children under his care, and found it to be fully answerable to the character we had heard of it. His method of instruction is detailed in a paper of his

own writing (see appendix, No 8) and in which he gives due commendation to the system of teaching the children to write, which has been followed for some years with very great success.

Each of the female schools sends a certain number of girls in rotation every day to the laundry and to the spinning school, the rest remain in the schools; part of the day is devoted to works of industry, and the greater part to instruction in reading, writing, arithmetic, and the principles of the Protestant religion; the boys likewise are alternately employed at their respective trades, and at school, each child receiving three days school instruction in the week. For further detail as to the plan of education, we refer to the appendix, No 8.

The principle on which the governors set out, when they presented their petition to Earl Hardwicke, preparatory to their petition to parliament in the year 1803, was, that each child should receive four years education, being taken up at the age of eight, and apprenticed at the age of twelve years. The house being capable of accommodating but twelve hundred children, and about four hundred being the annual average number to be drafted in, it is obvious that the circumstances of the institution do not admit of the period allotted to education being any longer protracted; and as half of this period is devoted to industry, it requires sedulous exertion on the part of all those employed in the education of the children to improve the short space of time allowed for this purpose to the best advantage; nor does this exertion appear to be wanting in any branch of this department. The duties of the chaplain (under whose superintendence the education of the females is placed) being also discharged in the most exemplary manner by the Reverend Henry Crofton, who has filled that office for upwards of thirty years. The proficiency of the children of both sexes, especially in religious knowledge, has excited the warmest approbation of all those who have attended the examination at the found-

ling hospital; and at the annual catechetical examination of children selected from all the schools on charitable foundations in the metropolis and its vicinity, the progress of the children of the foundling hospital has been particularly distinguished. The fruits of this sedulous care of their education are stated to have been happily experienced in the conduct of many of the children who have of late years been apprenticed from the house, among whom it appears, that there have been several eminent and satisfactory instances of exemplary good conduct and fidelity, which has been rewarded by the confidence and friendship of their employers and their own advancement in life.\*

The separation between the male and female schools is complete; there are distinct play-grounds for each sex, quite inaccessible to the other.

#### *Woollen Factory.*

The woollen factory at the foundling hospital was established in the year 1799. The present superintendent was engaged in May 1802. It comprises the manufacturing of broad cloth, camblet, and flannel, and supplies the hospital with cloth for the boys clothing, camblet for the girls gowns, &c. and flannel for the infants. There are at least one hundred boys employed in the factory, fifty working each day alternately; on the other days of the week they are at school. They are thus trained for woollen, cotton, or silk manufacturers, many of the boys at the time of their being apprenticed have been able to earn, as stated to us, from one guinea to thirty shillings per week; every boy is allowed one sixth of his earnings, of which a regular account is kept by the superintendent, out of which he is paid two-pence per week, and the remainder is laid by and paid on his leaving the hospital.

The factory has considerably increased the demand for apprentices, the useful habits of industry, thus acquired, hold out a greater inducement

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\* See Appendix, No. 7.

ment to the industrious manufacturers than a fee.

There are likewise about eighty of the female children employed in spinning, carding, and reeling the yarn for the supply of the looms; the age of the boys employed is from ten to twelve years, of the girls from seven to ten years. The attention of the girls after that period is more particularly directed to improvement in needle-work; the nett profit to the hospital, after defraying every expense of attendance, repairs, and the superintendant's salary, is about one hundred and fifty pounds per annum.†

Several of the commissioners whose names are subscribed to this report visited the hospital on the 20th of July last, and were struck with the order and regularity which every where prevailed, as well as with the neatness and healthy appearance of the children in the schools and work-rooms. The whole economy indeed of the hospital appeared truly admirable, and reflects the highest credit on those respectable persons, of each sex, who have for some years devoted their time and attention to the preservation of the lives of so many human beings and to their subsequent education in such habits and branches of instruction, as cannot fail to render them useful and valuable to society.

#### *Apprentices*

We find that great care is now exercised by the governors in the choice of the persons to whom they apprentice the children; a certificate as to the character and morals, and also as to the ability of the person applying to maintain and instruct an apprentice in the trade which he professes to teach, signed by the minister and churchwardens of the parish in which the applicant resides, is always required. In addition to these precautions, the Officers of the establish-

ment, in their turns, visit the abodes of the persons applying (when resident in the city of Dublin), and after having inspected the accommodation, and made further and more minute inquiry into the character and circumstances of the applicants, send in to the governors a report in writing, signed by them respectively, without receiving, which no order is made for granting an apprentice.

Notwithstanding all these precautions, disappointments are sometimes found to occur; and, indeed, among a great number of children it is to be expected that some will turn out ill; but this failure is in several instances to be attributed to the neglect, caprice, and ill-treatment of their employers.

An inspection of the state of all the children apprenticed from the hospital was made about eight years ago by the officers of the house, under the direction of the governors of the hospital; and a report made founded thereon; and since that period much information has been obtained casually, and by the exertions of individuals, as to the situation of the apprentices. But there is no stated general provision, connected with the establishment, for continuing the superintending care and protection of the governors over their children, after they have left the hospital; the measure is not free from difficulties; in the course of a few years, there will be two thousand five hundred apprentices dispersed over all parts of Ireland. But we are confident that means may be devised for overcoming them, and we trust, that the attention of the governors which has been so laudably exercised in the reformation of this establishment, and in advancing it to its present state of order and improvement, will continue to be directed with the same zeal and judgment to supply what is yet wanting to complete the system. The measures pursued by the governors of the Foundling Hospital in London for the purpose, are recommended as highly deserving their consideration.

We subjoin a statement of the salaries, wages, and emoluments of the officers and servants, schoolmas-

† The articles manufactured here appear to be at least equal in point of quality to any of the same description in the city of Dublin: and the livery clothes made here are of such a quality as to induce (as we are informed) many gentlemen to purchase them in preference to those in the shops.

ters and mistresses on the 5th of April, 1809, (appendix, no. 4), also all the dietaries of all the different descriptions of persons in the house (appendix, no. 5.), also a return of the number of children in the house on the 13th of April 1809 (appendix, no. 6.), which number has been reduced somewhat since by the apprenticing of children, and will not be augmented this year, the governors having been obliged, in consequence of the state of their funds, to postpone the *drafing* of children till the year 1810; also a statement of the number of children supposed to be alive at nurse (appendix, no. 9.), which statement however is in some measure conjectural, and cannot be relied on as accurate. The provisions and almost all articles of consumption are supplied by contract, made after public advertisement. There is a garden of about three acres which supplies the hospital with vegetables in abundance; it is cultivated by a gardener, one labourer, and eighteen boys, none of which are employed every day on the same principle that regulates the alternate succession of labour and school education throughout the house. The cheap rate at which children are reared in the country is what has enabled the governors to conduct the institution on terms of advantage to the public.—From the table already referred to (supra) which contains a statement of the different descriptions of children received, it appears that this institution is not confined to foundlings, properly so called, but affords relief to a considerable number of the poorest class of the community, overburthened with families greater than they are able to maintain.

Without deciding on the policy of such institutions in general, or even the expediency of establishing such an hospital in this country (if none such were in existence) it is manifest that the sudden abolition of it would be in the highest degree impolitic.

Besides relinquishing the positive advantage to society of sending every year into the community a number of well educated children, a sudden interruption of free admission at the gate, after such a resource having been so many years open to the poor and the profligate, would probably be followed by the abandonment of many infants. It follows necessarily that the institution must continue to be supported, and as the benefits resulting from the mere saving of lives, without suitable provision for their instruction, are comparatively inconsiderable, and as the whole course of education will be obstructed if the governors are not enabled to carry into effect the plan pointed out in their petition to parliament presented in the session of 1803; we cannot help submitting to the consideration of the legislature the expediency of such additional grant, in aid of the funds of this institution, as shall enable the governors to discharge the debt already contracted, and complete the buildings necessary for the accommodation of twelve hundred children; recommending at the same time strenuously that the attention of the governors should be speedily directed to the increased number of admissions at the gate, which has taken place since the first of January 1808, and the means of limiting and restraining admission, so far as shall appear practicable, consistently with humanity and sound policy.

Council Chamber, Dublin Castle, }  
September 21st. 1809. } (Signed)

WM. ARMAGH.	(L. S.)
GEO. HALL, Provost,	(L. S.)
JAS. VERSCHOYLE	} (L. S.)
Dean of St. Patrick's	
WILLIAM DISNEY	(L. S.)
RICHD. L. EDGEWORTH	(L. S.)

(A true Copy) *W. Flint.*  
Irish Office, April 7th 1810.

## APPENDIX, No. 3.

A Table, showing the Comparative Number of Admissions from the several Counties in Ireland, for nine years and a half, to 31st December 1808.

	1800.	1801.	1802.	1803.	1804.	1805.	1806.	1807.	Half year	1808.	
County & City											
of Dublin	696	552	469	590	539	535	577	606	274	676	5,507
Carlow	29	37	17	40	39	30	44	54	17	28	308
Kilkenny	38	31	15	42	40	31	33	26	15	33	304
Kildare	56	50	33	53	57	62	63	62	25	80	541
King's County	29	37	27	40	31	35	40	39	11	56	345
Queen's County	38	26	22	42	38	32	43	31	16	46	328
Louth	55	44	29	55	59	42	39	51	20	49	436
Longford	12	14	15	23	13	22	24	24	10	26	185
Meath	68	43	42	58	52	56	42	50	32	59	502
Westmeath	30	32	15	24	24	26	26	16	16	25	234
Wexford	46	35	58	50	46	52	60	47	18	39	431
Wicklow	50	52	39	60	58	60	57	61	24	62	524
Antrim	90	72	59	73	81	89	88	89	58	100	779
Armagh	106	65	54	90	70	63	89	90	39	89	755
Cavan	52	63	44	97	70	83	89	109	50	95	752
Down	124	131	85	143	174	122	159	137	89	156	1,320
Donegal	47	50	33	59	37	52	53	42	21	48	444
Londonderry	61	48	28	46	37	55	49	62	17	54	457
Fermanagh	68	50	51	53	52	60	45	58	20	75	532
Monaghan	78	88	40	59	71	65	63	64	32	73	688
Tyrone	115	144	57	130	123	113	17	122	55	125	1,100
Galway	36	30	27	42	48	31	43	56	12	40	343
Leitrim	3	6	9	18	10	17	21	19	8	20	128
Mayo	9	7	4	9	9	8	6	11	8	16	87
Roscommon	12	14	11	25	18	21	24	27	11	32	195
Sligo	3	6	4	6	8	13	23	19	9	13	104
Cork	11	4	3	7	5	6	15	7	4	8	70
Clare	10	7	14	13	19	29	15	12	2	7	128
Limerick	5	19	77	119	58	130	134	104	43	129	818
Tipperary	39	42	42	63	50	48	51	60	36	75	506
Waterford	27	50	27	49	49	32	36	48	27	51	396
Kerry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2,041	1,850	1,432	2,178	1,956	2,020	2,168	2,164	996	2,390	20,195

## For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

## REMARKS ON THE PLAN OF LANCASTER'S SCHOOLS.

THE subject of the Lancasterian school establishing in Belfast, having occasioned much conversation; I lately re perused his book entitled "Improvements in Education," printed by subscription in 1805. I am disposed to attribute much merit to him and Dr. Bell for their plans, which have so materially tended to cheapen, and consequently facilitate education among the poorer classes. The mechanism as far as regards the system of teaching by lessons pasted on the walls, by writing on sand and slates, as also

the introduction of monitors appears to be excellent. But I have great doubts, that the very high stimulus of emulation which pervades his system, and I think is carried to an extreme, is in danger of doing hurt. Emulation in its farther boundary runs into envy,

"And slight partitions do their bounds divide."

Besides the very high excitement of his system of emulation may in time lose its effect, and do injury, either by producing indifference, or what is still worse, degenerating into the rancorous passion of envy in the minds of the children. On visiting Joseph Lancaster's school in the